

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

BARBARA DENNISTON,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CONAGRA FOODS, INC.,

Defendant.

8:15CV463

AMENDED ORDER
SETTING FINAL SCHEDULE
FOR PROGRESSION OF CASE

This matter is before the court on the parties' Joint Motion to Continue Trial and Extend Deadlines (Filing No. 24). For good cause shown,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. The parties' Joint Motion to Continue Trial and Extend Deadlines (Filing No. 24) is granted as set forth below.

2. **Motions for Summary Judgment.** Motions for summary judgment shall be filed not later than **May 16, 2017**. See NECivR 56.1 and 7.1.

3. **Discovery Deadlines.**

a. **Deposition Deadline.** All depositions, whether or not they are intended to be used at trial, shall be completed by **January 27, 2017**.

b. **Written Discovery Deadline.** All interrogatories, requests for admission and requests for production or inspection, whether or not they are intended to be used at trial, shall be served sufficiently early to allow rule time response before the deposition deadline. Counsel may stipulate to extensions of time to respond to discovery requests in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 29, but such extensions shall not extend any of the dates in this order; any request to extend the deadlines of this order shall be sought by motion.

c. **Discovery Motions.** Motions to compel may not be filed without conferring as required by NECivR 7.1(i) and contacting the assigned magistrate judge's chambers to set a conference for discussing the dispute. Discovery motions shall be filed not later than **November 30, 2016**, as to matters which are

then ripe for decision; discovery matters arising after that date may be the subject of motions until the deposition deadline.

4. Pretrial Disclosures.¹ Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3), each party shall serve opposing counsel and file a redacted version as applicable with the following information regarding the evidence it may present at trial other than solely for impeachment purposes as soon as practicable **but not later than the date specified:**

a. Witnesses - On or before December 30, 2016: The name, address and telephone number of each witness, separately identifying those whom the party expects to present and those whom the party may call if the need arises.

b. Deposition Testimony and Discovery - The designation of discovery testimony and discovery responses intended to be utilized at trial is not required for this case. Motions to require such designations may be filed not later than fifteen days prior to the deposition deadline.

c. Trial Exhibits - On or before September 29, 2017: A list of all exhibits it expects to offer by providing a numbered listing and permitting examination of such exhibits, designating on the list those exhibits it may offer only if the need arises.

d. Waiver of Objections: Any and all objections to the use of the witnesses, deposition testimony, discovery responses, or exhibits disclosed pursuant to the above subparagraphs, including any objection pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 32(a) that a deponent is available to testify at the trial, shall be made a part of the pretrial order. Failure to list objections (except those under Fed. R. Evid. 402 and 403) is a waiver of such objections, unless excused by the court for good cause shown.

5. Motions *in Limine*.

a. Motions *in limine* challenging the admissibility of expert testimony at trial under Fed. R. Evid. 702 shall be filed by **January 3, 2017.** See *Kumho Tire*

¹ In accordance with the E-Government Act, counsel shall, on witness lists, exhibits, and other disclosures and/or documents filed with the court, redact social security numbers, home addresses, phone numbers, and other personally identifying information of witnesses, but shall serve an unredacted version on opposing parties. See NECivR 5.3.

Co., Ltd. v. Carmichael, 526 U.S. 137 (1999); **Daubert v. Merrell-Dow Pharms.**, 509 U.S. 579 (1993). The motions should be accompanied by a request for a hearing, if necessary. Failure to timely move for a hearing may constitute waiver of the request for a hearing.

b. Any **other** motions *in limine* shall be filed on or before **October 6, 2017**.

6. **The Final Pretrial Conference** with the assigned magistrate judge is set for **October 16, 2017, at 11:00 a.m.** in chambers, Suite 2271, Roman L. Hruska United States Courthouse, 111 South 18th Plaza, Omaha, Nebraska. The final pretrial conference shall be attended by lead counsel for represented parties. Counsel shall complete prior to the pretrial conference, all items as directed in NECivR 16.2.² Counsel shall submit a copy of the draft order to the assigned magistrate judge by noon on the day before the conference. By the time of the pretrial conference, full preparation for trial shall have been made so that trial may begin immediately thereafter. The pretrial conference will include a **discussion of settlement**, and counsel shall be prepared through investigation, discovery and communication with clients and insurers, if any, to discuss fully the subject of settlement, including realistic expectations about liability, obstacles to agreement, offers made, and offers which can be made at the conference. Counsel shall be prepared to make additional offers or proposals for settlement in behalf of their clients at the pretrial conference, and counsel shall be prepared to make or opine on recommendations for further negotiations and conferences.

7. **Settlement.**

a. Not later than two weeks prior to trial, plaintiff or plaintiff's counsel shall serve on defendant or defendant's counsel a written, updated settlement proposal. Defendant or defendant's counsel shall respond in writing to such proposal not later than one week before trial.

b. In the event the parties mediate their dispute, notice of the mediation shall be given to the staff of the magistrate judge's office. The filing of

² All personal information should be redacted from the public version of the order and/or attachments filed with the clerk. See NECivR 5.3.

a mediation reference order will terminate pending motions, without prejudice to refiling. If the mediation is not successful, the moving party may reinstate such a motion by filing a written notice to that effect, and the other parties may respond in accordance with the local rules, regarding the date of the notice as reinstating the response/reply time that remained as of the date the mediation reference order was filed.

c. Notice of settlement shall be given to the trial judge's office as soon as practicable but in any event in time to avoid summoning a jury. If a case settles and notice of settlement is not given in sufficient time to avoid summoning a jury, assessment of jury costs may -- and normally will -- be made against a party and/or counsel for one or more of the parties. For purposes of this paragraph, a jury is considered summoned for a trial at noon the business day prior to the designated date of trial.

8. **Trial** is set to commence, at the court's call, during the week of **October 23, 2017**, in Omaha, Nebraska, for three to four days, before the Honorable Joseph F. Bataillon and a jury. Unless otherwise ordered, jury selection shall be at the commencement of trial.

9. **Motions to alter dates.** All requests for changes of deadlines or settings established herein shall be directed to the magistrate judge by appropriate motion, including all requests for changes of trial dates. Such motions shall not be considered in the absence of a showing by counsel of due diligence in the timely development of this case for trial and the recent development of circumstances, unanticipated prior to the filing of the motion, which require that additional time be allowed.

Dated this 22nd day of September, 2016.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Thomas D. Thalken
United States Magistrate Judge